

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

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DECEMBER, 1914

No. 2

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The happiest period of all the year has come. In the notes of joy encircling the world, we are reminded of God's greatest gift to the world—a Savior. It is still the glad tidings of great joy.

"The kindness of Christmas is the kindness of Christ." In the midst of our giving hear Him say, "Give me thine heart." Let us give Him our lives, that He may make them all that they ought to be. Let us give Him our minds that He may fill them with truest wisdom. Let us give Him our hearts that they may thrill with the pulsings of His own infinite love. Let us give to Him our powers of service, that at the setting of life's sun, we may say, "I have not lived in vain."

We shall soon pass the portals of another year. Let us carry with us the Christmas spirit through all its days. In the sunshine and the shadow of the days that are to be, may the angel of God's presence go with you all the way. Then no day can be "dark and dreary."

Communion services Sabbath morning, Dec. 27th. Baptism and reception of members.

The annual congregational meeting New Year's evening in the lecture room of the church at 7:30.

Annual supper by the Laymen's League New Year's evening, from 5:00 to 7:30. Twenty-five cents.

The Lyon Evangelistic Services begin at the Tabernacle Sabbath morning, January 3rd, at 10:45. Afternoon service at 3:00 o'clock. Evening service at 7:00.

Union mass meeting at the Tabernacle Sabbath evening, Dec. 27th, at 7:30. Addresses by out-of-town laymen.

The only services held at the churches on the Sabbaths during the revival meeting will be held in the morning at the Sunday School hour, from 9:00 to 10:15. Every member of the church should be at this service.

The annual congregational meeting will be held on New Year's evening at 7:30 in the lecture room of the church. Every member of the church should be at this meeting and have a part in the transaction of the business which will come before the church at that time. The annual reports will be read at this meeting, and there will be an election of officers. Two elders and two deacons, financial secretary and church treasurer are to be elected. The annual New Year's supper by the Laymen's League from 5:30 to 7:30.

TEXT OF THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA— THE STAR OF THE EAST

Text by Louis E. Holcomb. Music by J. S. Fearis.)

No. 1. Prelude for Organ.

No. 2. Solo for Tenor, or Soprano, Women's Chorus and Choir.

ARISE, SHINE.

Tenor Solo.

Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
And the glory of God is around thee!
And nations shall come to thy light,
And Kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Women's Voices—

And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Art not the least among the princes of Judah,—

Choir—

For out of thee shall come a Governor
That shall rule my people Israel.

Solo—

And thou shalt call his name Jesus,
For he shall save his people from their sins.

Choir—

And his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
And from river unto the ends of the earth.

No. 3. Contralto Solo, Baritone Solo, and Choir.

THE STRANGER STAR.

Contralto Solo—

The night was still on Judah's hills
No storm disturbed the calm;
The zephyrs in the rhamnus hedge
Seemed murmuring a psalm.
The glory of a winter night
In peace lay all around,
While shepherd's slept in quiet
Undisturbed by mortal sound.

When lo! a stranger star,
In yonder eastern sky,
Shed forth a light that filled the earth
With glory from on high.
The slumbering men on Judah's hills
Awoke in mortal fright
To see the earth at midnight's hour
Ablaze with wond'rous light.

And unto them an angel spoke
In sweetest tones of love:
"Fear not, I bring you glad tidings,
Glad tidings from above.
In Bethlehem a Savior's born
A sinful world to save;
To show to men a way of hope
Stretching beyond the grave."

Baritone Solo—

And suddenly there was with the angel
A multitude of the heavenly host,
Praising God and saying:

Choir—

Glory to God in the highest,
Peace and good will to men.

Contralto Solo—

Hark! hear them sing, the angel choir
From realms above is winging.

Choir—

Glory to God in the highest,
Peace and good will to men.

No. 4. Soprano and Tenor Duet.

THE ANGELS' SONGS.

Duet—

Sweetly the songs of angel choirs are ringing
O'er Judah's hills, where sleeps the new-born
King;

Low o'er the earth in joyous adoration
Angels of light their glory anthems sing.

Angels of Jesus, angels of love
Bringing to mortals a song from realms above.

Soprano Solo—

Singing of peace to men of every nation;
Singing of love, where strife and hate had
been;

Tenor Solo—

Singing of hope which saw but faintly dawn-
ing

The glad release from suff'ring and from sin.
Duet—

Angels of Jesus, angels of love
Bringing to mortals a song from realms above.

And still today those angel songs are sound-
ing;

Thro' earth's dark ways their tones tri-
umphant roll,

Telling of him, the lowly, loving Jesus,
Who came to comfort every troubled soul.

Angels of Jesus, angels of love
Bringing to mortals a song from realms above.

No. 5. Baritone and Choir.

SING, O HEAVENS

Choir—

Sing, O heavens, and be joyful, O earth,
And break forth into singing, O mountains.

Baritone Solo—

For Jehovah hath comforted his people
And hath compassion upon his afflicted.

Choir—

Sing, O heavens, and be joyful, O earth,
For Jehovah hath comforted his people.

Baritone Solo—

He shall save thee from thy sorrow,
From thy bondage set thee free.

Hear His blessed invitation,

"Come, ye weary, come to me!"

Choir—

Sing, O heavens, and be joyful, O earth,
And break forth into singing, O mountains.

No. 6. Soprano Solo.

THE BEAUTIFUL STAR.

Beautiful star of peace and love,
Shining in splendor the world above,
Glowing with hope for the lost of earth,
Heralding Jesus, the Christ Child's birth.
Radiant with glory bestowed by heav'n,
Lustrous with promise of sins forgiv'n,
Wonderful star of a wonderful day,
Pointing the world to the heav'nly way.
Beautiful star in the eastern sky,
Star of the new-born Prince most high,
Lighting a sin-darkened world with
peace,

Granting the sin-burdened soul release;
Star of a pardoning King of love,
Guiding men upward to God above,
Shine in thy splendor the ages thro'
Till evil succumbs to the good and true.
Shine in thy beauty the world above,
Beautiful star of peace and love.

No. 7. Solos and Choir.

AWAKE, PUT ON THY STRENGTH.

Choir—

Awake, put on thy strength,
Put on thy strength, O Zion!
Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem!
How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings
of peace;

That sayeth unto Zion,

"Thy God reigneth!"

Break forth into joy, sing together,
Ye waste places of Jerusalem.

Baritone Solo—

For Jehovah hath comforted, hath comforted
his people,
And all the ends of the earth shall see the
salvation of our God.

Choir—

Jehovah hath comforted, hath comforted his
people,
And all the ends of the earth shall see the
salvation of our God.

Mezzo-Soprano Solo—

And the ransomed of Jehovah shall return
And come with singing unto Zion;
They shall obtain gladness and joy,
And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Choir—

Awake, put on thy strength,
Put on thy strength, O Zion!
Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem!

No. 8. Baritone Solo.

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT.

Lead, Kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on.

Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see
The distant scene, one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on;

I loved to choose and see my path, but now,
Lead thou me on.

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears
Pride ruled my will,—remember not past years.

So long thy pow'r hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent till
The night is gone.

And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost
awhile.

No. 9. Contralto Solo and Quartet.

THERE SHALL BE NIGHT NO MORE.

Contralto Solo—

And there shall be no curse any more
And the throne of God and of the Lamb shall
be therein.

And his servants shall serve him, and they
shall see his face,

And his name shall be on their foreheads.

Unaccompanied Quartet—

And there shall be night no more
And they need no light or lamp, neither light
of the sun,

For the Lord God shall give them light,
And they shall reign forever.

No. 10. Tenor Solo and Choir.

REJOICE GREATLY.

Choir—

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion,
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem,
Behold thy King cometh unto thee!
And he shall speak peace to the nations;

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge
of Jehovah

As the waters that cover the sea.
Glory to God, to God the Holy One,
Who hath loved us in our weakness
And hath sent to us his Son.

Blessing and praise to Christ the new-born
King.

Throw the echo back to heaven
As the angel anthems ring.

Tenor Solo—

"Peace on earth!" O joyous message!
See His royal diadem,
Shout hosanna in the highest,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Choir—

Glory to God in the highest,
Peace and good will to men.

During the time of the revival meet-
ings the church offerings should be
brought to the church at the Sunday
School hour, or taken to the meetings
at the Tabernacle. Use your church
envelopes for your weekly offerings.
The envelopes put in the offering at
the Tabernacle will go into the hands
of the treasurer of the evangelistic com-
mittee and he will turn them over to
our financial secretary. We prefer to
have you bring your offerings to the
Sunday School service at the church if
you can; if you can not do this, take
them to the Sunday service at the Tab-
ernacle. This is the plan adopted by
all of the churches. It is important
that you should get your offerings
weekly to the financial secretary as our
current expenses must be taken care of
during the meetings.

C. E. COMMITTEE FOR 1915.

Prayer Meeting Committee.—Helen
Trish, Bertha Weickart, Rev. A. K.
Zartman.

Lookout Committee.—Esther Fritz,
Geo. Shiffer, Ruby Zeis.

Missionary Committee.—Hazel Goo-
ley, Edith Shiffer, Juanita Heyman.

Social Committee.—Evelyn Wertman,
Ruth More, Helen Weickart.

Whatsoever Committee.—Loretta
Gooley, Emily Eberwin, Elsie Weickart.

Efficiency Committee.—Clarence
Aiken.

Music Committee.—Evan Williams.

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, D. D., Editor and Pub.

Subscription Price, 25 cents per year

Miss Heyman, from Bellevue, has been a guest at the home of her Aunt, Mrs. P. A. Heyman.

Mr. Abram Jones will spend Christmas with his parents, who reside in Columbus, Ohio.

Mrs. Hostman, residing on West Jefferson street, has been quite ill for several weeks.

Mrs. Blum is still at the St. Joseph hospital. She will be glad to see any of the members. Her room is No. 29.

Little Helen Brewer was recently operated upon at Hope hospital for adenoids and tonsils. She displayed a great deal of fortitude and courage in this trying experience. We are glad that she will soon be able to be out again.

The singing by the newly organized quartet is giving universal satisfaction in the congregation. Words of appreciation are heard upon every hand. It is a happy relief to the pastor to know that the singing is to be taken care of at each service.

Dr. and Mrs. Parley Zartman, with the Misses Stephenson, sisters of Mrs. Zartman, were recent callers at the parsonage. They also attended a part of the rehearsal of the choir. They are enthusiastic in their words of appreciation of the singing of the choir.

The pledges for current expenses and benevolence should be paid in full by Dec. 31st. Also the special pledges made to meet deficit in current expenses. At least \$50 more should be added to this fund. Those who have not already contributed to this fund should give their portion.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR'S SUPPER.

Soliciting Committee.—J. W. Brewer, H. E. Metzner, Arthur Weiler, Evan Williams, Ray Deahl, Ernest Baumgartner.

Purchasing Committee.—A. K. Zartman, Frank Leikauf, David Wilbert.

Kitchen Committee.—Oscar Riley, Clarence Aiken, Floyd Siebold, Arthur Fritz, William Straub.

Coffee Committee.—C. H. Gumpfer, L. H. Hills.

Candy Stand.—Howard Gumpfer, Ralph Siebold, Derrel Copenhaver, Earl Dinger, Clarence Potts, Oscar Deahl, Chauncey Holzman, Mr. Wisony, Freeman Clausse and Albert Chase.

Waiters and Managers.—Ernest Close, Geo. Shiffer, Arthur Bitner, Oscar Snook, Charles Masel.

All the men in the church not already named are on this last committee—and will be needed.

Menu.—Shredded chicken and biscuit, mashed potatoes and gravy, cabbage, celery, cranberries, etc., etc.

YOUR PLEDGE FOR 1915.

What about it? Have you talked with God about it? It is expected that by January 1st there will be a pledge in the hands of the financial secretary from every member of the church for current expenses and benevolence. We are making an earnest and persistent plea for fair and honorable dealing with God and the Church in this matter. After going over the financial secretary's book carefully, we are sure that many could easily and should, in all fairness to themselves and God, increase their contributions to the church and for benevolence very materially. It is gratifying to see how liberally some few have been giving. If others would manifest the same spirit, the Church would never want for funds with which to carry on its work. With their meager income of but a few dollars a week, the giving of these few is altogether out of proportion with the giving of others whose income is so many times larger. From a conversation we had recently with one of the young men in the church we are convinced more than ever that giving does not depend as much upon the ability as

upon the willingness to give. Our young brother has recently made a discovery which should prove of interest and value to other church members. For a few months past he has been contributing a dollar a week to the current expenses of the church and he is happy in discovering that he can do this just as easily as giving the smaller sum which he gave formerly. Others will be happy in making the same discovery. We venture to say that our brother will make the further discovery that his larger giving will bring to him the larger blessing. We have been happy to learn that some of our young people are members of the Tenth Legion and are pledged to give their tenth to the Lord. This is an encouraging outlook for the church. Our young people are setting a good example for the church. Let us make a good start for the new year. Let us aim to make it the best year the church has ever had, and the best you have ever had in your own life. Make Jesus and his cause first in your life. Freely as God has given to you, give to Him. What about your obligations to God and the church? What about your pledge? Talk to God about it. Let Him settle the whole matter for you. Nothing is ever settled right in your heart or in your life until God settles it for you.

“For the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” It is absolutely essential that we, as a Church, should have faith in God and in His promises if we will be a power in the coming revival. It is equally true that our faith alone is not going to be sufficient to bring a blessing to the Church. It will require work, downright hard work, if we will reap a harvest for our own souls and an awakening for our church. Everything may not be planned according to my way of thinking, but if it is God’s way that is all that is necessary.

Grace Church will have to put on new life and vigor in order to become

a power in the coming meetings. Other people are not going to do our part of the work. We must be on hand if we want to help make things go.

Some of our people who cannot be driven from their homes to a Sunday evening service, neither by persuasion nor by a direct appeal, will have to realize that while they are asleep, or while they are visiting, or entertaining neighbors **someone else** will be gathering the harvest.

There is no condition in church life that is so hard to overcome as spiritual lethargy. John writes in Rev. 3: 16: “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

God is not pleased with coldness. He wants a warm-hearted service.

Some representatives of every family should be at every service if they cannot all come. It may be impossible to bring little children to the evening service, but where there is a deep spiritual interest in the church it is usually possible to have a representative at each service.

Consistency demands this. Your church is what you help to make it. Your Sunday School is what you help to make it. If you are a Sunday School teacher, your duty is not completed when you are through with your class. Your scholars are watching your life. They are expecting you to be consistent. The disappointment they will feel in your indifferent attitude will have its effect upon their lives.

A consistent following of the Lord Jesus is by far the best sermon that can be preached by any Sunday School teacher. Some of the members have become vitally interested in the building up of the attendance at the prayer meeting. God be praised, there are a few members who are at every service the church has and one need not go far to feel their influence. It speaks loudly for it is a proof of loyalty and an abiding interest in the service of God’s house.

A life of sacrifice that touches our ease, our pleasure, and last but not least, our pocketbooks, so that we will give the best we have to God for His work—the best time, the best talent, the best effort—such a life will be a power for good in the church and in the community.

A life of blessing to others means a life of sacrifice. A prayer meeting or a reception? A trip to church on Sunday evening or staying at home and doing as I please? A giving or a getting—which shall it be? Jesus gave Himself for me; what am I giving to Him?

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